

## GENERAL CONFERENCE.

## FIRST DAY.

The Forty-Ninth Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints met in the Large Tabernacle, on Monday, October 6th, 1879, at 10 o'clock a. m., as per adjournment.

Present on the stand of the Apostles: President John Taylor, Orson Pratt, C. C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, Franklin D. Richards, George Q. Cannon, Brigham Young, Joseph F. Smith, A. Carrington and Moses Thatcher.

Counselor to the Twelve Apostles D. H. Wells.

Presiding Patriarch, John Smith. First Presidents of the Seventies: Joseph Young, H. S. Eldredge, A. P. Rockwood and John Van Cott.

Of the Bishops: Presiding Bishop, Edward Hunter; Counselors, Leonard W. Hardy and R. T. Burton.

Conference was called to order by President John Taylor.

Choir sang hymn on page 235,

"From Greenland's joy mountains,  
From India's coral strand."

Prayer by Elder Orson Pratt.

The choir sang hymn on page 9.

"The time is nigh, that happy time,  
That great expected blessed day."

ELDER ORSON PRATT rejoiced in the privilege of again meeting in a General Conference in peace. Made reference to the rapid progress of this people during the period of nearly fifty years, since the organization of the Church. He then contrasted the discouraging results of the preaching of the Prophet Noah, while delivering the message that God sent him to deliver to the people of his day, with the success that has attended the labors of the Elders of Israel in our own times. Although most of our converts are among the poorer classes, from the United States and the nations of Europe, notwithstanding the indigence of the people, especially on arrival in these western wilds, the building up of settlements and cities, of school houses and meeting houses, the conversion of the waste lands into fruitful fields and orchards, turning this vast Territory from a desert into a fruitful field has been the result of the labors of the Latter-day Saints, and not of the outside population that have come here for speculative purposes.

We came here as a religious people and established a civil government and an ecclesiastical government, under which there were no grog shops, gambling halls or houses of ill fame. We could have our doors unlocked and our windows unbolted at night; we could leave our washed clothes on the lines without any fear of them being stolen. But how is it to-day, since the introduction of Gentile civilization in our midst? Every species of evil has been fostered, making both life and property insecure, and in many instances the Federal officials have shielded the evil doors, and let them loose in our midst. There were many honorable exceptions to these characters referred to, and these remarks had no reference to them.

He then adverted to the injustice of the effort now being made by the high officials of this nation to bear down upon the Latter-day Saints on account of the religious views practiced by the people, especially plural marriage; although sanctioned by the Bible Congress has seen fit to pass a law making it a crime, the violation of which subjects the individual to fine and imprisonment. He himself was a firm believer in the great and glorious principles of civil and religious liberty, comprehended in the Constitution of our country, and therefore he could not as an individual, endorse the action of Congress as having anything to do with a man's religious belief or practice so far as it did not interfere with the liberty and rights of others.

The object in meeting in Conference was to impress the great truths of our religion upon our minds, to appoint missionaries to go to the various nations of the earth, to preach the fulness of the everlasting Gospel, which also embraces the doctrine of plural marriage, and he did not think the advanced nations of modern times had become so lost to the principles of civil, to say nothing of religious liberty as to adopt measures to prevent this work and the gathering of the Saints, no matter who might recommend such a course.

ELDER LORENZO SNOW dwelt largely on the principle of revela-

tion, as it existed in the days of Christ and his Apostles, and as restored in our day—no individual is under obligation to receive the testimony of another unless he receives a revelation from God, that that testimony is true—hence the Savior promised that any one who would do the will of his Father, should know of the doctrine that it was true. So with the Elders of Israel—this same promise is made to the people in every nation whithersoever they are sent, that if the people will only receive and obey the principles of the Gospel, God will make manifest to them by revelation, that this work is of God and not of man. Hence this principle of revelation forms the basis of our faith, and if the Saints who have received this knowledge in distant countries and emigrated here will only continue to live their religion, by being faithful in all the relations of life, God will pour out upon them abundantly of the spirit of revelation, and bless them in their families and all they undertake to do.

The choir sang an anthem

"Open thou, thine eyes."

Conference adjourned till 2 p. m. Benediction by Counselor D. H. Wells.

2 p. m.

The choir sang Hymn on page 146:

Great God attend while Zion sings,  
The joy that from thy presence springs.

Prayer by Counselor D. H. Wells.

The choir sang hymn on page 67:

Praise ye the Lord 'tis good to raise  
Your hearts and voices in his praise.

ELDER FRANKLIN D. RICHARDS said in contemplating the work of God as it exists in the earth to-day he was led to reflect on the political influence it was exerting in this and other nations. The first principle that gave it prominence was that of new revelation especially among the religionists of the United States, who raised the hue and cry of blasphemy. Some time after this the doctrine of polygamy came forth which aroused the indignation of our political champions, and who placed it side by side with slavery, calling them twin relics of barbarism. The abolishment of these two relics formed one of the chief planks of the republican platform. The attempt to abolish slavery has been made, though not accomplished, as a political movement, and the destruction of polygamy yet remains undone. True republicans pledged themselves to put it down, if raised to power. The voice of the nation to-day is, "eradicate polygamy from the country," although that principle constitutes one of the essential truths of our faith. He appealed to the Saints as to whether they are prepared to sacrifice or relinquish that portion of their religion, or willing to bear the consequences of a strict enforcement of the law of 1862, even should the effect be attended with fines, imprisonment or even death. For such would certainly be the result if God did not interpose and prevent it. Our appeal must be to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, who has given the law of plural marriage to this people, which works no evil to our neighbors, but is good in its tendency wherever carried out in righteousness. He hoped, therefore, that we as a people would humble ourselves before God, put away from us our evils and submit our cause to him, who in his own due time will defend us against the designs of the enemies of his kingdom.

ELDER BRIGHAM YOUNG spoke upon the same subject. The Prophet Joseph Smith brought forth by the revelations of God the most glorious principles that were ever enunciated on the face of the earth. He spoke of the futile efforts of any government or people attempting to eliminate from the hearts of the Saints that principle of faith which God has implanted by his Holy Spirit. He referred to the saying of ancient prophets that no nation should exist for any great length of time on this continent unless they observed and carried out the principles of righteousness. We as a people have nothing to fear only our own weaknesses and sins. Let us therefore put away from us everything that is displeasing to God our heavenly Father, and prepare ourselves for the second coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who will soon appear.

President JOHN TAYLOR said he

had been pleased with the remarks of the brethren. The spirit that inspired them reminded him of the early experience of the Saints in years gone by. The Saints have observed every law which the United States has made except one, and that was one that was made expressly to make us offenders against God. The Elders of this Church have been sent out to preach the gospel, and plural marriage is a part of it. That principle was revealed to him from God, and he felt to bear this testimony not only to this nation but all the nations of the earth, that he knew the Almighty had revealed it. Many others had had it revealed to them, and no power on earth can destroy or take away that testimony. We need not be at all surprised at what the nation is now doing and intends to do, but no one can do anything against the truth but for it. All the nations are in the hands of God, and so are we. All who feel to acknowledge God as our King and our law giver, say amen. [The assembled multitude responded in a loud amen]. The hand of God will be upon this nation if they oppress this people. We can afford to honor God and keep His commandments. Let us be for God and his cause, and the building up of his kingdom.

The choir sang an anthem,

Hearken unto me.

Conference was adjourned till tomorrow, (Tuesday) at 10 o'clock a. m.

Benediction by Elder George Q. Cannon.

## SECOND DAY.

Tuesday, Oct. 7, 1879.  
10 a. m.

The choir sang hymn on page 147:

O God our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come.

Prayer by President JOSEPH YOUNG.

The choir sang hymn on page 377:

Sweet is the peace the gospel brings,  
To seeking minds and true.

President JOSEPH YOUNG addressed the Conference. He was very much interested in the remarks that were made in the Tabernacle yesterday. He felt disposed to look on the most favorable side of the weaknesses of his fellowmen, for therein he could see his own. He was a firm believer in a Supreme Being, who in the Scriptures is called God; he also believed in his son Jesus Christ. We are, as mortals, poor indeed, only as we are filled with the power and Spirit of God. The Latter-day Saints he hoped had learned lessons of humility before God and lost to a degree, those of self-esteem and importance, especially when the eyes of their understanding are opened to see the glory and majesty of God and his son Jesus Christ. He was no politician, no legislator, but he professed to have some knowledge of human nature.

He then delineated some of the leading characteristics of man's condition, and the numerous interpretations that are put upon men's actions by their fellow beings. Spoke of the danger of riches and its hardening tendency on the human heart; recommended the houses of the poor to be visited and their needy wants supplied. Referred to the hurry and bustle of the speculative times in which we live, which are so absorbing that many can scarcely find time to attend to their prayers and other religious duties. Men who have never had the Holy Ghost cannot sin against God to any great extent, and their chastisement and sufferings will be comparatively light. Speaking of persecution he said it was no wonder that the Latter-day Saints suffered it, for that had been the patrimony of the Saints in all ages of the world. He prayed that God would bless them and keep them in the right path.

ELDER GEORGE Q. CANNON presented the following names of missionaries. Those who have already gone to Europe and the United States are indicated by \*.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

\*Chas. R. Savage, Salt Lake City  
\*George M. Ottinger,  
Wallace Wiley, Bountiful  
Thomas Duce, Hyde Park  
Hyrum Evans, Salt Lake City  
Enoch Lewis, Bountiful  
\*Thomas Davis, Wales, Sanpete  
James Birmingham, Bountiful

Robert F. Gould, Washington  
Joseph C. Bentley, St. George  
Samuel L. Adams  
Zera P. Terry, Hebron  
Abraham H. Cannon, Farmers' Wd.  
Howard Coray, Mona  
William Coray, "

## UNITED STATES.

\*Solomon Clinton Stevens, Ogden  
\*Wm. W. Fife, Ogden  
\*George H. Carver, Plain City  
\*Hyrum Belnap, Hooper  
\*Henry Bartholomew, Slaterville  
\*Noah L. Shirliff, Harrisville  
\*Peacum W. Heward, Draper  
\*Gordon S. Bills, South Jordan  
\*Samuel Butterfield, Fort Herri-man  
\*Francis McDonald, Big Cotton-wood  
\*Levi P. Helm, Mill Creek  
\*Moroni Pickett, Tooele  
\*James H. Moyle, Salt Lake City  
\*John Wm. Gibson, North Ogden  
\*David H. Peery, Ogden  
\*Newell W. Taylor, Harrisville  
\*Squire Gaen Crowley, Lynn  
Richard Hill, Ogden  
\*George H. Butler, Marriottville  
Lorenzo Hunsaker, Honeyville  
\*Benjamin Harker, Taylorsville  
Franklin Spencer, Richfield  
John R. Murdock, Beaver  
Richard A. Ballantyne, Ogden  
John H. Williams, Coalville  
Crandel Dunn, Beaver Dam  
Aaron Thatcher, Logan  
Israel D. Olphin, Pangwitch  
George Nebeker, Salt Lake City  
Gronway Parry, "  
John Ellison, Kaysville  
John C. Witbeck, Levan

## SCANDINAVIA.

\*Niels B. Adler, Spring City  
\*Niels Thompson, Ephraim  
\*Mons Nielsen, Ephraim  
\*Christian Jensen, Moroni  
\*Christian Olsen, Fairview  
\*Niels C. Larsen, Manti  
\*Erick O. Byland, Santaquin  
\*Lawrence C. Mariger, Kanab  
\*Carl John Oberg, Provo  
\*Christian L. Hansen, Gunnison  
\*C. Anthon Christensen, Fountain Green  
\*Ludwig Suhrke, Soda Springs  
O. N. Stohl, Brigham City  
Jacob Hansen, Bear River City  
Harmon F. F. Thorup, City, First Ward  
John T. Thorup, City, First Ward  
Peter Nielsen, Washington  
Peter Nielsen, Smithfield  
Fred Lundberg, Logan  
Hans Funk, Lewiston  
Israel Sorensen, Mendon  
Anton I. Skankie, Logan  
Peter A. Nielsen, Draper

President Taylor announced that this was only part of the missionary list, other names would be called before the close of the Conference.

ELDER JOSEPH F. SMITH said he had enjoyed the spirit and instructions of this Conference. The prospects before the Latter-day Saints are very encouraging. The Kingdom of God is onward and upward, and the Latter-day Saints are in a better position in regard to numbers, wealth, education, public buildings, influence and faith than ever before. We are receiving considerable notoriety from officials abroad and officials at home. No amount of persecution will be permitted to come upon us, only so far as will be good and beneficial to us as a people, and be subservient to the great purposes of the Almighty in the last days. This state of things proved to him that God was with this people and we have nothing to fear. If persecution comes let it be for the gospel's sake, and not for any evils of our own, then we can truthfully look up to and expect that God will stand by and sustain us. Unless we had become the covenant people of God we could not be chastised and persecuted any more than other people. If God should permit our enemies to deprive us of our privileges and oppress us socially and politically, it will be to humble us and bring us nearer to him. He did not believe that the Saints would be under the lash of chastisements any great length of time, but after they have been brought to a more acceptable condition before God, he expected they would enjoy more freedom and power than they ever have before. The Kingdom of God is onward and upward, and we as a people have great reason to rejoice and be exceedingly glad. We are entirely in the hands of God. We expect to worship God and live our religion open and above board, and manifest to God and angels, that we are willing and determined to aid in bringing about the great purposes of the Almighty. He esteemed the laws of God as infinitely higher and more binding on the conscience than the laws of men. He then adverted to the grand and glorious principles of civil and religious liberty contained in the constitution of our country, and showed that none can infringe upon those principles without exposing themselves to the just indignation of the Almighty. He dwelt upon the folly of trying to harmonize Christ and Belial, the Saints and the wicked, which are natural opposites and cannot be made one. Whatever we undertake to do, let it be in righteousness before God, and He will sustain us over every foe.

The choir sang an anthem:  
Thine O, Lord.

Conference was adjourned till 2 o'clock p. m.  
Benediction by Elder Lorenzo Snow.

## SECOND DAY.

2 p. m.

The choir sang hymn on page 302:

When earth in bondage long had lain,  
And darkness o'er the nations reigned.

Prayer by Elder George Q. Cannon.

The choir sang hymn on page 213:

What wondrous things we now behold,  
By prophets seen in days of old.

ELDER GEO. Q. CANNON then presented an exhibit of the Perpetual Emigrating Fund.

President JOHN TAYLOR said there was no financial statement of the Church to read at this Conference as the returns from the various Stakes are only obtainable once a year. He said that whatever course the nations of the earth may deem proper to take towards us as a people, we as Latter-day Saints have nothing to do with it; we are here to build up the Kingdom of God. A great many are thus engaged to the best of their ability, and we leave those who oppose it in the hands of the Lord. Antagonism to the work of God is no new thing, it has existed from the beginning. We are gathered here, that God may plant within us the principles of eternal truth; that we may operate with God the Father, his son, Jesus Christ and all the holy prophets since the world began; for this purpose we are gathered together, and for this purpose we build temples to the name of the Lord. Unless God had revealed these things to us, we should be as ignorant of them as the people of the whole world. The hearts of the fathers are being turned to the children, and the children to the fathers, and God being our helper, and the Devil not hindering us, we will go on with our work to its consummation. And that we may labor in the common interests of humanity we say to our outside friends, hinder us not. We owe a duty to the world, and are commanded to put our light in a candlestick, and not attempt to hide it, by putting it under a bushel. We therefore ask as a privilege that we may be permitted to live our religion according to the dictates of our conscience. And while our enemies are seeking to do us all the injury they can, we will do them all the good we can.

Those who have been called upon this Conference to go on missions, he hoped were men full of the Holy Ghost, for these were the only ones he was willing should go forth on such an important and responsible labor. While it is our duty to send the gospel to the nations of the earth, it is also our duty to preserve the order of the priesthood at home, and for this purpose he called upon the Presidents of Stakes, Bishops and others to root out iniquity. He then denounced the prevalence of drunkenness in our midst, the running of saloons by men holding the priesthood, the fostering and encouraging of lewd houses, and other evils indulged in by those who have a name in our midst as members of the Church, and called upon the Bishops and others holding the priesthood, to take the steps pointed out in the laws of the Church unto all such, or their blood will be required at their hands, no matter what the name or position of the individual. I say unto you purge the Church of all such evil doers. We must cleanse the inside of the platter before we talk about touching the outside. He then made a few remarks about the suit recently inaugurated by some of the heirs of President Young, and after stating